

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (original): A method for manufacturing a fabric from yarns, fibers or filaments, including first elementary filaments of a first polymer and second elementary filaments of a second polymer, the method comprising:

receiving the yarns, fibers or filaments, from a common spinneret;

forming the yarns, fibers or filaments into a single first fabric;

compressing the first fabric to a density of at least 10% of a density of the first polymer, the compressing being performed at a temperature between a glass transition temperature and a melting temperature of the first polymer; and

subsequently applying a further mechanical force so as to cause an at least partial splitting of the yarns, fibers or filaments into the first and second elementary filaments.

Claim 2 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the applying of the further mechanical force is performed at a temperature of at least 10°C below a melting temperature of the first polymer.

Claim 3 (original): The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the melting temperature of the first polymer is equal to or lower than a melting temperature of the second polymer.

Claim 4 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the compressing is performed to a density of at least 15% of the density of the first polymer.

Claim 5 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the compressing is performed using a roll calender.

Claim 6 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the applying of the further mechanical force includes applying a hydrofluid treatment at a pressure of 120 to 500 bar.

Claim 7 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second elementary filaments are elementary microfilaments.

Claim 8 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the yarns, fibers or filaments include melt-spun filaments.

Claim 9 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the yarns, fibers or filaments include staple fibers.

Claim 10 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second elementary filaments are micro-elementary filaments and the first and second polymers are compatible polymer pairs.

Claim 11 (original): The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the first and second polymers are selected from the group consisting of: polyethylene/polypropylene; polyethylene terephthalate/polybutylene terephthalate; polyethylene terephthalate/polytrimethylene terephthalate; polyethylene terephthalate/recycled polyester; polyethylene terephthalate/polylactate; polyester/copolyester; polyamide/copolyamide; polyamide 6/polyamide 66; and polyamide 6/polyamide 12.

Claim 12 (original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second elementary fibers include micro-elementary filaments and the first and second polymers are incompatible polymer pairs.

Claim 13 (original): The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the first and second polymers are selected from the group consisting of: polyester/polyamide; copolyester/copolyamide; polyethylene terephthalate/polyamide; and recycled polyester/polyamide.